

REGISTER TO VOTE!

The most important election in over 50 years is less than 2 months away. Don't be left out. Register today!

The Hartford News

September 24 – 30, 2020

FREE

HEADS UP!

Absentee Ballot Update

BY DONNA SWARR

An absentee ballot application was sent to every registered voter and it included a postage-paid return envelope. You may return your absentee ballot application by using the safe and secure absentee ballot drop boxes that are located outside City Hall, or mail it directly to the Town Clerk using the postage-paid envelope included in the mailing or your own envelope with postage. If you did not receive one, and you want one, you can download an application at <https://portal.ct.gov/SOTS/>; it has a barcode, which will speed things up. Or you can request one from the Town Clerk's Office, 550 Main St #1, Hartford, CT 06103 or call (860) 757-9750.



In addition to Hartford City Hall, 550 Main Street, new ballot boxes for absentee ballots have been installed in front of the Albany Library (above, corner of Albany and Blue Hills Avenue); the Dwight Library (middle, corner of Park Street and New Park Avenue); and the South End Senior Wellness Center (bottom, 830 Maple Avenue).

What do you do if you didn't receive an application for an absentee ballot? Maybe you aren't registered to vote or perhaps you moved. You can register or update your information via the Secretary of State's website and then download the application. Since voting by absentee ballot has become a more common way to vote, there are some nuances that many of us may not be aware of, such as, can you retrieve your ballot? Why, yes, you can. You would contact the Town

Continued on page 2



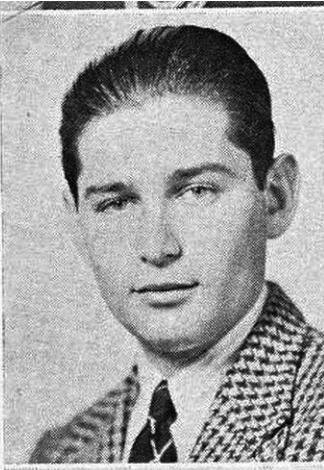
Celebrating Mexican Independence Day

Greater Hartford's Mexican-American community celebrated the anniversary of their homeland's gaining independence from Spain with a flag raising ceremony at the State Capitol and Hartford City Hall on Wednesday, September 16. Lt. Gov. Susan Bysewicz and Mexican Consul Islas López both spoke at the event. Students from the Mariachi Academy of New England, including (above) Marianna D'Amore, Lilliana D'Amore and Morelby D'Amore, provided music before and after the ceremony. (Hart photo)

Hartford...Once Upon a Time

NORMAN LEAR

This is Lear—the inimitable Lear—clearing house for ancient, medieval, or risqué jokes, past-master of the art of reflex-provoking (sneezing, etc.) and if anyone asks him who Winchell is—he's New York's Lear. An ultra-sophisticate, the "King" tells a good story, showers before breakfast, writes poetry, likes debating, acting, orating, and is a famous wit (infamous if you must!) We can't seem to do the old boy justice.



Dozens of celebrated individuals past and present have laid claim to Hartford as their hometown: actors, comedians, writers, poets, artists, athletes, and even an astronaut. The man who radically changed the face of television comedy beginning in the 1970s is writer/director/producer Norman Lear, who grew up in the north end and graduated from Weaver High School in 1940. Judging by the caption alongside his yearbook photo, Lear, even at the tender age of 17, seemed to have already made a name for himself among his peers, and appeared to be destined for fame. Comedy was his forte, and he delivered by creating a string of hit shows beginning with *All in the Family*, followed by *Sanford and Son*, *Maude*, *Good Times*, *The Jeffersons*, *One Day at a Time*, *Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman*, and *Fernwood 2 Night*. All comedies, but several with a dramatic edge, he tackled previously taboo subjects for mainstream TV, including racism, sexism, war, homosexuality, rape, abortion, death, politics, and poverty. Today, at the age of 98, Lear resides in California and continues his lifelong passion as an activist for social justice issues.

NEWS BRIEFS

New Britain Avenue Clean Up Saturday

The Maple Avenue Revitalization Group (MARG) and Southwest and Behind the Rocks NRZ will team up to host a neighborhood clean-up event along New Britain Avenue this Saturday, September 26 starting at 9 am. Volunteers are asked to gather at the Free Center (formerly Goodwin Library Branch), 460 New Britain Avenue, Hartford.

Mammography Testing at Parker Ctr. Saturday

Hartford Hospital's Digital Mobile Mammography coach is coming to Parker Memorial Center, 2621 Main Street, Hartford next Saturday, October 3, from 8:30 am-2 pm. These screening mammograms are offered for women age 40 and older who have not had a mammogram in over a year.

Suicide Awareness Event Sunday

September is Suicide Awareness Month, and Citizens Opposed to Police States, in collaboration with 4Unity and other community based organizations will be presenting a discussion of suicide featuring resources, mindfulness, performances, and art this Sunday, September 27, from 1-5 pm at Heaven Skate Park, corner of Main and Chapel Streets, Downtown Hartford. (See story, page 2)

Yoga At Kamora's Corner September 29

Toivo will host yoga sessions with Sara at Kamora's Cultural Corner, 75 Sterling Street, Hartford, on Tuesday, September 29, from 10-11am. Admission is free, please bring your own mask, water bottle and yoga mat.

Registration Open for Sonia Plumb Dance Classes

Do you have a child with an intense desire to learn dance? Are you a pre-professional dancer looking to deepen your education? Are you a professional dancer looking to keep developing your skills? Are you a dance dabbler who wants to learn new things? The Sonia Plumb School Of Dance is offering a diverse array of classes for youth and adults in ballet, modern, contemporary, classical Indian Kathak, stretching, and more beginning October 4th. In-person classes will be held at Hartford Stage Rehearsal Studios, 942 Main Street, 2nd floor in downtown Hartford. Go to soniaplumb.com

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SHOP HARTFORD FARMERS' MARKETS

Harvest time is upon us and it's a great time to visit your local Hartford Farmers Market for the freshest in locally grown fruits, vegetables and more.

KNOX

75 Laurel Street. Open Mondays 11 AM to 2 PM. Accepts & Doubles SNAP

WEST END

385 Farmington Avenue. Open Tuesdays 4 PM to 7 PM, 3 PM to 6 PM in October. Accepts & Doubles SNAP

OLD STATE HOUSE, DOWNTOWN

800 Main Street. Open Tuesdays and Fridays, 10 AM to 2 PM

NORTH END

80 Coventry Street. Open Wednesdays, 10 AM to 1 PM. Accepts & Doubles SNAP

HOMESTEAD

255 Homestead Avenue. Open Wednesdays 2 PM to 5 PM. Accepts & Doubles SNAP

BROAD STREET

539 Broad Street. Open Thursdays, 11 AM to 2 PM. Accepts & Doubles SNAP

PROMISE ZONE

1229 Albany Avenue. Open Saturdays, 9 AM to 12 PM. Accepts & Doubles SNAP.

2020 Latina Champion Awards Winners Announced

Marilyn Alverio, founder and producer of Latinas & Power Symposium (LPS) have announced the three Latinas being honored with the Latinas & Power Latina Champion Awards for 2020. Tatiana Banhon, Azucena Maldonado and Jossie Valentin have been selected for this distinction because of their commitment to leadership, community involvement, and effort to elevate fellow Latinas. The Latina Champion Awards will be conferred as part of the 17th Latinas & Power Virtual Symposium, Part II, on Thursday, September 24 at 11:30am.

Tatiana Banhon has been in the insurance industry for over 25 years and is currently a Director for the Middle & Large Commercial Property Product team at The

Hartford. The support of her sponsors and influence from past leaders have shaped her career journey and fueled her passion for Latino advancement in the workplace. Tatiana is on her third year of service as Tri-Chair of the Hispanic Leadership Network (HLN), The Hartford's Employee Resource Group focused on Latino employee population. She also serves on the Middle & Large Commercial D&I Council. As a D&I (Diversity & Inclusion) leader, Tatiana is focused on driving greater representation of POC and women in leadership roles. In her current HLN role, she helped design a leadership development program that enables professional growth for members of the

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Absentee Ballot Update

Continued from page 1

Clerk's office to make this request, but it can't be later than 5 p.m. on November 2nd.

Big News! The City will have three more ballot boxes in addition to the two in front of City Hall. You can find them in front of the public libraries located at Park Street and New Park Avenue, Blue Hills/ Avenue at Albany Avenue, and in front of the South End Senior Wellness Center at 830 Maple Ave. Each ballot box is in a secure location and has security cameras to monitor activity. DPW will be installing them very soon. I spoke with Eric Lusa, Assistant Town

Clerk, about how they will be able to handle the expected increase in absentee ballots. They have hired an additional seven people in the office to help out. They have received 5,000 requests as of Monday, September 21st for absentee ballots, but are expecting up to 25,000. The absentee ballots cannot be mailed out sooner than Friday, October 2nd, so be patient.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the city may consider moving the Election Day Registration Location (EDR) to another location; in prior years it was always at City Hall. Noon is the deadline to register in person on November 3rd – Election Day.

Politically Speaking

A Fresh Look at Issues Facing our Region & State

BY MIKE MCGARRY

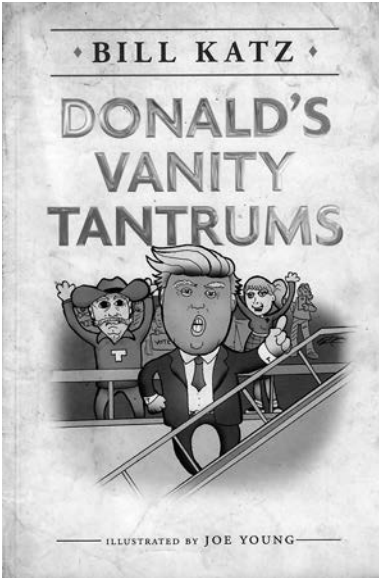
Bill, Watch Out for the Black Helicopters!

The new book *Donald's Vanity Tantrums*, recently written by Hartford resident Bill Katz, would probably land him in trouble in China, Russia, maybe Argentina or now Poland if he poked as much fun as the leaders of those nations. Bill, be careful with your cup of tea.

With ex-employees (Cohen, McMasters, etc) coming out of the Trumpian closet on a seemingly

under the microscope we focus on political leaders (or if they were the subject of a federal tax audit). Excusing a tax cheat, marriage cheat and habitual liar like our current chief executive is easy if one crosses the line as a way of life.

The fun of *Donald's Vanity Tantrums* is that we can laugh all the way to the graveyard of democracy with Bill. This Sunday, we



watched the 1960 Kennedy-Nixon debate, 60 Minutes (in which McMasters labeled Trump as unwise), and a Dwight D. Eisenhower memorial dedication. Can we imagine how history will view the last three and a half years?

The die is cast...Hartford cast 8,000 votes for Biden in the

weekly basis, our president must be somewhat disappointed in his record of personnel choices. Bill, did you secretly have CIA clearance? Our only criticism of the afore-mentioned book by Mr. Katz is that he needs a 10-page index of all the players in the ongoing White House soap opera to bring us up to speed. He remembers much more about the cast of characters who have passed through the White House's revolving door over the past few years.

Some of the defenders of this sad presidency say that the "first you say you will and then you won't" tactics are to move the ball so often that you forget the last interception. For about 40% of potential voters seem to glory in the idea that getting away with just about anything is laudatory – maybe part of that 40% lives their lives that way and pride themselves on getting away with any scam. However, truth is in our experience. Just about everybody would have a tough time

recent primary, 120 for Trump. Democrats lined up for four hours to vote early in Virginia. Have you seen any Trump bumper stickers lately? Or Trump/Pence lawn signs? Florida may go Democratic, the whole Mid-West is tilting toward Biden. No mad charges over mail-in votes will change the majority (well over 50%) who claim they will never support the man claimed to be "unfit" by most of the ex-employees Bill refers to in his book. Buy a copy before it's out of date! It's available at the UCONN Downtown Barnes & Noble Bookstore, 18 Front Street, Hartford or through Amazon.com. Best deal? Buy local!

Should you mail back a request for an absentee ballot?



I am in the high-risk category and I try to avoid indoor public spaces

I am super busy! I have long work hours, I am juggling many responsibilities, I may not get to the polls on Election Day



WECA Seeks Nominations for Officers, Committee Chairs

The West End Civic Association (WECA) are looking for neighborhood residents interested in running for Executive Board roles, as well as Sector Reps and Committee Chairs.

The deadline to be considered as a candidate for any position is Friday, October 9, 2020.

Committee Chairs:

- Architectural History and Resources

- Beautification and Planting, Community Building
- DineAround
- Education
- Farmers' Market
- Golf Tournament
- Membership
- North Branch Park River Environmental Committee
- Planning and Zoning
- Porchfest
- Public Safety

- Scholarships Committee
- Social Activities

Officers:

- President
- Vice President (North sector)
- Vice President (South sector)
- Secretary
- Treasurer

Email the nominating committee for more info or to express your interest: sjmoore@hotmail.com

Suicide awareness event this Sunday

September is Suicide Awareness Month, and Citizens Opposed to Police States, in conjunction with 4 Unity Community Outreach Corp will be presenting the 1st Annual Graceann Iovino Suicide Awareness Day on Sunday, September 27th from 1-5 pm at Heaven Skate Park.

The organizers of the event believe that connections and community are of the utmost importance when it comes to suicide prevention. Workshops will be presented on mindfulness, self care, sound healing, and healing through poetry.

There will also be performances by local artists and personal stories of healing. Participants in the event will have the opportunity to write healing words and phrases, and express themselves through art.

The event is named in honor of Graceann Iovino, the sister of local activist and community member Joanna Iovino. Her battle with depression was lost on May 5, 2020 after many decades of struggle. Graceann was a passionate animal lover and worked for over twenty years at Little Shelter on Long Island, New York.

When COVID-19 forced so many people to stay home, a vital lifeline was lost for Graceann. She was unable to be at the shelter, carrying for the animals she loved so much and interacting with fellow animal lovers. Many others have experienced increasing depression and hopelessness due to loss of social outlets. This is why this event will be focused on healing activities and connections.

Participants are encouraged to bring a chair and blanket, and an open mind. Masks are required.

THE HARTFORD NEWS

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Know Your Candidates!

Election Day 2020 is Tuesday, November 3. This year, federal (president and congress) and state (state senators and representatives) offices will be up for election. If you are not currently registered you still have time! The deadline to register online to vote is Tuesday, October 27, 2020. The deadline for registering by mail to vote is (post-marked by) Tuesday, October 27, 2020. The deadline to register in person to vote is Tuesday, October 27, 2020. The deadline to request a ballot by mail is (received by) Monday, November 2, 2020. For more information, go online to: <https://portal.ct.gov/SOTS/Election-Services/V5-Side-Navigation/ELE--Voter-Information>



Candidate NameParty

President and Vice President

Howie Hawkins and Angela Walker	Green Party
Jo Jorgensen and Spike Cohen	Libertarian Party
Joe Biden and Kamala Harris	Democratic Party
Donald Trump and Mike Pence	Republican Party

Representative in U.S. Congress (First District)

John B. Larson	Democratic Party
John B. Larson	Working Families Party
Mary Fay	Republican Party
Thomas E. McCormick	Green Party

State Senator (First District)

Barbara Ruhe	Republican Party
John W. Fonfara	Democratic Party
Mary L. Sanders	Green Party

State Senator (2nd District)

Douglas McCrory	Democratic Party
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Hartford Registrar of Voters

Giselle "Gigi" Feliciano	Democratic Party
Sheila N. Hall	Petitioning Candidate
Vanessa Garay-Jackson	Republican Party

State Representative (1st District)

Mark Stewart Greenstein	Epic Party
Matthew Ritter	Democratic Party
Daniel Adam Piper	Socialist Resurgence Party

State Representative (3rd District)

Minnie Gonzalez	Democratic Party
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State Representative (4th District)

Barry J. D’Andrea	Republican Party
Julio A. Concepcion	Democratic Party

State Representative (5th District)

Brandon L. McGee	Democratic Party
Charles Jackson	Independent Party
Charles Jackson	Republican Party

State Representative (6th District)

Edwin Vargas, Jr.	Democratic Party
Edwin Vargas, Jr.	Working Families Party

State Representative (7th District)

Joshua M. Hall	Democratic Party
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Why Print News Still Matters

The Hartford News stands in solidarity with the overtaxed shrinking staff at the troubled Hartford Courant

COMMENTARY BY ANNE GOSHDIGIAN

“Nobody reads newspapers anymore.” There’s nothing worth reading in the paper.” “I get all my news online.” “There’s always the TV news.” Yeah, I’ve heard it all before, plenty of times, and it continues to irk me. There is nothing – nothing! – that compares with turning the pages of your local daily (or weekly) newspaper as far as knowing what’s going on in your city, state, country, or around the world. Reading the paper isn’t only about the visual; text and photos. It’s a tactile experience that for many of us runs generations deep, going back to earliest childhood and seeing our parents or grandparents at the kitchen table with a cup of coffee and the *Hartford Courant*, turning the pages, sometimes reading aloud particularly interesting items to share with anyone within earshot. It wasn’t just “reading the paper”—it was a ritual. And when we as kids were ready, it became our ritual, too.

In these troubling times, maintaining rituals is a comfort, and getting the news out to the people is more important than ever. The most important is community news, and the stories about what, good or bad, is happening and affecting life in our towns and neighborhoods; local is where it’s at. *The Hartford News* has been doing just that for decades, and not just for one neighborhood. We cover what’s going on in the entire city. The late, lamented Hartford Advocate did the same. So did the Courant until the walls of over a hundred reporters, columnists, and photographers at the Broad Street headquarters started crumbling several years ago. Some saw it coming and jumped ship. Others were blindsided and tossed overboard. It settled down for a few years after that. But with the advent of parent company Tribune acquiring a major stockholder—Alden Global Capital—that’s put the screws to Tribune papers around the country, newsrooms—including the *Courant’s* have been nearly decimated, and the “bad” has now reached “worse” level.

CCC’s Sister 2 Sister Program Accepting Applications

Capital Community College (CCC) is now accepting applications for its Sister 2 Sister program. This mentoring program is designed to provide additional support, coaching and encouragement of CCC’s Black and Latina students in reaching their academic and professional goals. For more information, call 860-286-2834 or or 860-906-5086 or email bthornton@capitalcc.edu or mhall-davis@capitalcc.edu.

They’re hanging on by a very slim thread.

One longtime Courant reporter recently told me this: “It’s just sad. Unlike my younger colleagues who have seen nothing but bad times, I can remember when it was a wonderful place to work. There are three town reporters left. Each had three extra towns added to their beats last week, instead of hiring new people to replace the ones jumping off the ‘Titanic’. It’s impossible to cover five towns, and the people in those towns know it. We aren’t fooling anyone.” In addition, most remaining reporters have been mandated to be furloughed for one week every month. Think about what that means to dedicated journalists and photographers who are covering important local issues, but cannot report on them while on furlough. Popular *Courant* columnists such as Susan Campbell and Regina Barreca were unceremoniously dumped in spite of avid readership. Those left to hold down the fort cannot be blamed for the dearth of local news coverage in the paper; they’re doing a Herculean job already in spite of the odds stacked against them. They are fighting for the survival of the once-venerable *Hartford Courant* as much as for their jobs—maybe more. And as a decades-long working writer myself, I can assure you that you don’t go into that line of work for the money. No folks, it’s a calling, and one that usually arises during youth—perhaps when you’re old enough to read the newspaper on your own.


Hartford Courant, keep fighting the good fight, friends. We need you.




Stop the Violence Golf Tournament Friday

The 8th Annual Gun Violence Prevention Golf Tournament and Youth Exhibition will be held on Friday, September 25, at Wintonbury Hills Golf Course, 206 Terry Plains Road, Bloomfield. Registration begins 11 am with a shotgun start at 1 pm. Tickets are \$150 per person and include 18 holes of golf, brunch, dinner and awards reception (\$60 for the dinner alone). To order tickets, email Deborah Davis at davisdeb.com or call 305-302-2731. The event is sponsored by the Phillip Samuel Davis Foundation. Davis was fatally shot in Hartford a decade ago.

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Rallying for Voter Registration

The Greater Hartford Progressive Democratic Women's Club (GHPDWC) held a rally Saturday, September 19, at the State Capitol to increase voter registration and participation. The theme of the rally was "Breaking the Glass Ceiling in the Political Arena." Speakers included GHPDWC President Joyce Petteway (above), Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz, Attorney General William Tong and environmental attorney Cynthia Jennings. To find out more about the club, go to: <http://www.ghpdwc.org/>

Congratulations to Maricarmen Cajahuaringa!

A Hartford News contributing writer moves one step closer to her dream

For the past two years, Maricarmen Cajahuaringa has been a busy woman. As the founder of Boceto Media, the videographer, reporter, and interviewer spends her days in Hartford's neighborhoods, at the State Capitol, and virtually anywhere else in Connecticut where news is breaking.

For the past six months she's also been contributing thoughtful, comprehensive, well-researched, and timely articles written in Spanish to the Hartford News for our Latino readers. On top of all that, Maricarmen will receive her Master of Arts Degree in Journalism and Media Production next year.

With a career goal in sight, she secured a position last week at the FOX 61 newsroom in Hartford where she'll be on the assignment desk and working on news stories.

"I am so happy for this opportunity, and grateful to the people that believe in me. All I want to say is that if you want something with all your heart, and you work your all towards that goal, life will reward you. I look forward to keeping in touch with all of our community leaders and everyone who makes Connecticut a great state", she said. The news topics



closest to her heart are social issues, politics, and creative cultural stories in a positive vein. "I love the industry—especially media and communications that bring people together."

Felicidades, Maricarmen!



Parkville Sounds' Music at the Market: The Lost Tribe

Thursday, September 24, 6 - 9 pm; Parkville Market, 1400 Park Street:

A FREE outdoor concert series at the beautiful, newly opened Parkville Market. Come enjoy a variety of your favorite foods from multiple vendors and enjoy the music from our diverse lineup. The Parkville Market follows strict sanitation and social distancing protocols, attentively creating a safe environment for all it's guests. There is plenty of room to spread out and social distance inside and outside the market. Audience members may BYO chair! You will be required to wear a mask at all times unless you are seated. There is no outside food or beverage permitted at Parkville Market.

Picnic in the Park

Thursday, September 24, 5:30 - 7:30 pm; Elizabeth Park, Hartford-West Hartford town-line:

Bring your own food and drink and take some time to ring in the Jewish new year together! All social distancing rules will be followed and Eventbrite signups are required so we can ensure we have enough space!

Summer Concert Series: Illuminous

Friday, September 25, 12-1 pm; Connecticut's Old State House, 800 Main Street: Join us for our annual FREE Summer Concert Series! This year, the Summer Concerts will be held on the East Lawn side of Connecticut's Old State House beginning at noon. Concerts will also be live streamed on our Facebook page! Due to COVID-19, in person audience will be limited to 100, masks are required, and social distancing will be enforced by staff.

Pratt Street Patio Presents Desiree Camille

Friday, September 25, 5-6 pm; Pratt Street, Downtown Hartford:

Pratt Street Patio Presents is a weekly live music series on Fridays from 5-6PM on Pratt Street featuring local musicians. This Friday, enjoy the pop-soul stylings of vocalist Desiree Camille. This live music series is hosted by Hartford.com with special thanks to the Richard P. Garmany Fund.

Paint and Plant!

Saturday, September 26, 1 - 4 pm; Free Center, 460 New Britain Avenue: Join Free Center for some painting and gardening! Sign up to volunteer and stay in touch with updates here: <https://mailchi.mp/54cb58c9650d/volunteer-fc-hartford>. Covid-19 requirements: please wear a mask. If you're feeling sick, please stay home. Thank you!



Wethersfield Avenue Clean-up

The Love Hartford Anti-Litter Campaign held a clean-up of Wethersfield Avenue in Hartford's South End on Saturday, September 19. Volunteers (including Patrick Meaney, Matthew Larson, Joellen Gagnon and Audra Valliere and Casey Guiheen, Sgt. Joseph Mauro and Dan Ronan from the Hartford Chamber of Commerce, HYPE (Hartford Young Professionals and Entrepreneurs), the Hartford Police Department and other groups participated in the event.



Don't be stuck with a cold house this winter!

Help is available from the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program!

The Community Renewal Team can help you apply for this FREE program to heat your home all winter long. Staff speak English and Spanish.

Find out if you qualify!

Call CRT's 24-hour hotline at **860-560-5800** and apply now.



Community Renewal Team
Changing lives... Creating opportunity!

Vaccine Safety—Public Health or Personal Liberty?

BY TOM SWARR

Public health officials are vexed by growing resistance to vaccines for preventable communicable diseases. The political intrusion into the process of developing a vaccine for COVID-19 has only increased public distrust. A survey by the Pew Research Center indicated three-quarters of Americans think a vaccine will be approved before its safety and effectiveness are fully understood. Only half say they would definitely or probably get the vaccine. The growing distrust is causing many parents to forgo the recommended regimen of childhood vaccinations, leading to outbreaks of measles, mumps, and whooping cough (pertussis).

Vaccines can be considered one of the greatest medical achievements of all time. Yet in 2019, the World Health Organization declared the delay in acceptance or outright refusal of vaccines as one of the top 10 threats to global health.

As fear of (and direct experience with) the diseases faded, concern for potential side effects took on greater weight. A strong anti-vaxxer movement and growing distrust of science and public agencies has compounded these concerns. It must be recognized that protection of individuals from serious diseases depends not only on their own immunization but on the immunization of others in their community. Parents who refuse to vaccinate their children need to acknowledge the safety of their children depends on other parents continuing to vaccinate their children.

The benefits of vaccines are beyond argument. It has been estimated that vaccination with 7 of the 12 routinely recommended childhood vaccines prevented an estimated 33,000 deaths and 14 million cases of disease in every birth cohort, saved \$10 billion in direct costs, and saved society an additional \$33 billion in disability costs and lost productivity.

It is also beyond argument that no vaccine can be 100% safe. Even if a vaccine is shown to be 99.999% safe, we can expect hundreds of adverse events that

could range from a rash to lifelong disability and even death among the ~4 million babies born each year.

The National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act (NCVIA) passed in 1986 was an attempt to codify the social contract between individual decisions to vaccinate and the community public health. Pharmaceutical companies were given immunity to ensure a reliable supply of vaccines. NCVIA also established the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) jointly. VAERS accepts voluntarily submitted reports of any possibly vaccine-induced adverse event, no matter how tenuous the possible connection with vaccination might seem.

The NCVIA also established the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program to address claims quickly, easily, and with certainty and generosity in order to compensate children

who had been injured while serving the public good. Petitioners have no need to prove causation, only that an adverse event occurred around the same time as a vaccination. There is a presumption that the event was caused by the vaccine unless some other cause can be determined. Some 70% of its payments are the result of a negotiated settlement in which there was no conclusion that the vaccine caused the injury. From 2013-2017 alone, the program paid out an average of \$229 million a year to patients and their families. The average payment was about \$430,000. Anti-vaxxers claim these generous payments justify their concerns. Others might view it as simply holding up society's end of the contract to protect public health.

Vaccinations are a social contract; we accept some personal risk for the broader public good. Support for vaccinations ultimately comes down to trust in science and our public health agencies. The persistence of claims measles vaccinations cause autism despite being thoroughly debunked suggests more information may not be enough to overcome the distrust, isolation, and fear that has shredded our communal social fabric.



Night Fall 2020 – The Movie to Debut October 3

Night Fall, one of Hartford's most beloved community traditions, transitions to the screen for its ninth annual presentation. Up to this point, the show has been an outdoor live spectacular staged in one of Hartford's city parks. As 2020 proves to be anything but normal, artist Anne Cubberly's vision for a seasonal performance has been recast as *Night Fall 2020 - The Movie*, a film that will drop online at NightFallHartford.org and on Night Fall Hartford's social media channels. The complete program will also air on Hartford Public Access (HPATV), found at Xfinity Channel 5 and Xfinity Channel 95.

This creatively reenvisioned approach to Night Fall is being released on the event's originally-scheduled date of Saturday, October 3 at 7pm and will be available for the public's enjoyment thereafter. The show will also air throughout October on Hartford Public Access. As in previous years, *Night Fall 2020 - The Movie* is free and open to all. The show is perfect for all ages and can be enjoyed regardless of the viewer's primary language.

The multi-talented and multicultural cast of Hartford-area artists are using Cubberly's fascinating costumes, masks and puppets to create an all-new experience specifically to



be enjoyed on a screen. *Night Fall 2020 - The Movie* will feature original music, dance, comedic sequences, and awe-inspiring spectacle.

Performers include Anya Belladonna, Deve-Ann Bennet, Deje Bennet, Ginnette Christie, Mamadou Dieme, Chantal Edwards, John Fuentes, Casey Grambo, Curtis Greenidge, Kyle Grimm, Jakar Hankerson, Gerard Hector, Justin Hughes, Assad Jackson, Savana Jones, Rosie Karabetsos, Kunzika, Greg Ludovici, Loren Milledge, Stephanie Moreland, Erica Nelson, Julia Pistell, Angel Thompson, Lael Marie Williams, and FriendZ-WorldMusic.

Night Fall 2020 - The Movie is being co-directed by Anne Cubberly, Steve Mitchell, and LB Muñoz. The project is being filmed by Miceli Productions with the virtual audience experience provided through CulturVision by Free Center.

Night Fall probes the mysteries of seasonal transition and change. The evening's climax, a final ritual procession of lanterns, symbolizes an ending of the fall season and a welcoming to the winter season soon to come. In this way, Night Fall is a festival of theater, pageantry, movement and music as well as a uniquely Hartford celebration of nature, our shared history and most importantly, our community.

WE'RE DIGITAL FOR 2020!
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Hartford Public Library and Hartford Stage Announce New Book Club

Hartford Public Library and Hartford Stage invite the community to a new book club, called “Deep Appreciation,” a heart-led gathering featuring live readings, interactive dialogue and reflections on fiction and poetry by Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) authors, past and present.

The book club will meet quarterly to discuss the selection with teens and adults, as well as provide a family friendly book pairing for those who wish to continue the conversation at home. Everyone is welcome. To register, call 860-695-6320.

Meeting Schedule

- First Meeting: November 19, 7:00-8:30pm, to discuss “Red to the Bone” by Jaqueline Woodson and “I Am Enough” by Grace Byers
- Second Meeting: January 21, 7:00-8:30pm, book selections to be announced
- Third Meeting: April 29, 7:00-8:30pm, book selections to be announced
- Fourth Meeting: July 22, 7:00-8:30pm, book selections to be announced

The Book Club was inspired by Black Lives Matter activists and by Black author Jasmine Guillory, who writes “...when we say Black Lives Matter, we mean the whole of Black lives—not just when we die at the hands of the police and

not just when our lives intersect with white lives to our detriment. Racism is not the only thing to know about what it means to be Black. Our joys, our sorrows, our love, our grief, our struggles to fit in, our families, our accomplishments and our triumphs—these things also matter.”

The book club will honor BIPOC stories of joy, grief, healing, sorrow, and love. In this spirit, the book club will live by a shared set of values, including committing to the practice of anti-racism in its gatherings.

Since 2018, Hartford Stage has partnered with the Hartford Public Library to create a program inviting Hartford residents to attend shows at the theatre, free of charge. Through the Library Pass Program, Hartford residents with an adult or teen library card can reserve a two-ticket pass per eligible show from any community library in the city. Since its inception, nearly 2,000 Hartford residents have enjoyed free performances at Hartford Stage. HPL @ Hartford Stage – a micro-branch of the Hartford Public Library housed in the Hartford Stage lobby – gives theatre-goers the opportunity to browse through a selection of carefully curated titles directly related to the themes of each production.

For more information about the library, visit hplct.org. For more information about Hartford Stage, visit hartfordstage.org.

Riverfront Recapture Picnic Fundraiser October 3



Riverside Park, site of next Saturday’s Picnic in the Park fundraiser, has beautiful views of both the Connecticut River and Downtown Hartford.

In past years, Riverfront Recapture has held its annual “Big Mo” fundraiser at the site of a new development in Hartford or East Hartford. This year, due to COVID-19 restrictions, the event will be held at one of the parks the fundraiser supports.

Big Mo’ 2020 will a picnic in Riverside Park – blanket, picnic basket, yummy lunch, and beverages provided – on Saturday, October 3, from 1 - 4 pm. Reserve your picnic spot early before the

limited number of spaces are taken. Social-distancing regulations will be in place, so please bring and wear your mask when required.

Your support of this Riverside Park Picnic will help ensure Riverfront Recapture’s parks are open and available for the public to enjoy year-round – and you’ll literally be at ground level seeing all of the regular park activity that takes place.

Your picnic basket will contain lunch from Bear’s Restaurant Group and dessert from Granny’s Pies. Beverages will be provided by

Coca-Cola and Thomas Hooker Brewing.

If you can’t attend the event, but would like to receive the picnic blanket and basket to create your own picnic, show your support by purchasing an At-home Picnic Ticket.

- Riverside Picnic - \$150 ticket (\$75 FMV and \$75 donation)
- At-home Picnic - \$125 ticket (\$50 FMV and \$75 donation)

Learn more, purchase tickets and select your meal on our website: <https://riverfront.org/thebigmo/>.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF David A. Weaver, Jr., AKA David Andrew Weaver,, Jr. (20-00840)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated September 15, 2020, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Carmen Y. Zayas
Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Paul R. Martel
c/o Jay Weintraub
Boneeweintraub LLC,
29 South Main Street, Suite 330N
West Hartford, CT 06107

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Catherine J. Heath (20-00793)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated September 18, 2020, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Carmen Y. Zayas
Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Connelius Percy, Jr.
63 Adam Hill
Windsor, CT 06095

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Constance A. D’Elia (20-00804)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated September 21, 2020, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Carmen Y. Zayas
Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Stephen & Susan D’Elia
31 Felicia Baber Lane
Colchester, CT 06415

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Daniel A. DeJoseph (20-00230)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated July 31, 2020, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Carmen Y. Zayas
Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Felix Szepanski
c/o Carla R Minniefeld
Carter Mario Injury Lawyers
158 Cherry Street,
Milford, CT 06460

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Tychelle Whitehead (20-00858)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated September 21, 2020, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Carmen Y. Zayas
Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Chaquana Wooding
c/o Jonathan Neil Perkins
Perkins & Associates
30 Lucy Street
Woodbridge, CT 06525

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Jacqueline Jones (20-00849)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated September17, 2020, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Francesca Knerr, Esq.,
Assistant Clerk

The fiduciary is:
P. Todd Pickens
c/o Christel F Berry
Law Office Of,
30 Tower Lane, Suite 100,
30 Tower Lane, Avon, CT 06001



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News Briefs

Continued from page 1
dance.org/open-classes for a complete list of classes and other details.

**Holy Trinity
Blessing of Animals
October 3**

On Saturday, October 3, Holy Trinity Church will host its annual Blessing of the Animals at 1:00 pm at the D’Esopo Funeral Home, Life Tribute Center, 271 Folly Brook Boulevard, Wethersfield. The religious service is held in honor of St. Francis of Assisi, Patron Saint of all Animals. A short, outdoor ceremony will take place on the grounds of the funeral chapel. All pets must be on leashes or in a carrying crate and be accompanied by their owner. Masks are required for all attendees. Please consider bringing a donation of pet food for the Holy Trinity Church of Hartford, Pet Initiative. For more information please call Janet D’Esopo Klett at 8602577635.

**CCC Hosts Lecture
and Tour Series**

Capital Community College (CCC), 950 Main Street, Downtown Hartford, is currently hosting the Hartford Public Lecture and Tour Series. The next lecture will be on Wednesday, October 7, with a 6 pm lecture by William Hosley pm on “Hartford Panorama: Joseph Ropes, Sam

Colt and the Great Flood of 1854.” On Wednesday, October 21, at 6 pm, Tracey Wilson will discuss “Women’s Suffrage and More: Edna Purtell and Mary Townsend Seymour.” In addition, Hosley will lead a tour of entitled “Hartford Art and Art Patrons at the Wadsworth Atheneum,” which will be live-streamed on Facebook starting at 10 am. There are very limited in-person spaces for both the tours and the lectures. To reserve your space, please email Bill Hosley at wnhosley@snet.net or call 860-944-8349. Tours will also be available online.

**HPL Seeks
Musicians for Baby
Grand Jazz Series**

Hartford Public Library is accepting submissions for in our Baby Grand Jazz series, which runs 16 Sundays from January through April. These popular free concerts have been a staple of Hartford Public Library since 2004. The concert series boasted its highest attendance in 2020. Ensembles must include a pianist who will play the Library’s grand piano. HPL will livestream the concerts on HPL’s Facebook and YouTube channel. These will be virtual performances, not with an in-person audience. The library is accepting rolling submissions; deadline for the 2021 series is October 16th 2020. For information about the Baby Grand Jazz series, visit



Hartford Elks Golf Tournament

Hartford Elks Lodge #19 held its annual golf tournament last Friday, September 18, at Goodwin Golf Course on the Hartford-Wethersfield town-line. Among the club members who volunteered to staff the event were (above, front): Debra St. Germain, Julie Morrin, Alison Byrnes and (back) Doug Whennem, Kim Greca, Ed Greca, John Bazzano. Money raised at the tournament is used to purchase musical instruments for Hartford students. For more information the the Hartford Elks and how to become a member, go to: elks.org/lodges/home.cfm?lodge=19. (Hart photo)

<https://www.hplct.org/classes-seminars-exhibits/baby-grand-jazz>

**Interval House
Brunch with
Champions Oct. 11**

Interval House will host Brunch with Champions, a virtual version of the organization’s annual Breakfast with Champions, on

Sunday, October 11, at 11 am. Broadcast live from kitchens across the region, attendees will learn how to make a signature cocktail from Hartford Flavor Company owner and mixologist Lelaneia Dubai, and then be led through the creation of a decadent brunch entrée by Max Restaurant Group Culinary Director Hunter Morton. Interval House President & CEO Mary-

Jane Foster will provide an update on the state of affairs at Interval House. Register by September 30 to receive delivery of a “Brunch Box” for two, stocked by Highland Park Market and Hartford Flavor Company (\$100; Greater Hartford only). Registration without delivery: \$50. Register at <https://intervalhouse.salsalabs.org/brunchofchampions>.

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Room For Rent
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1 & 2 bedroom apartments. Appliances included. Parking. Call John 860-805-4111.

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Four bedroom house. Stove and fridge included. Washer/dryer hook-ups. Section 8 welcome. Call Marilyn, 860-670-5439.

Room for Rent
Furnished room with utilities and kitchen privileges. \$130 weekly. 860 560-8200.

Apartments for Rent
Efficiency, 1, 2, 3 and 4 bedrooms available. Walking distance to shopping, on bus line, off-street parking. Small pets welcome. Section 8 Welcome. Rates Starting at: Studio- \$615; 1BR- \$700; 2BR- \$800; 3BR- \$900; 4BR-\$1000. Call 860-549-3000.

Apartment for Rent
1, 2 & 3 bedroom apartments on Arnold Street and Deerfield Avenue. Appliances included cold flat. Section 8 welcome. Affordable rents. Call 860-752-9060.

For Rent
Spacious 3 Bedroom apartments on the 2nd floor, West End. Cold Flat. 1 month security and 1 month rent. Section 8 welcome. Call 860-888-6655.

Rooms for Rent East Hartford
Nice, clean rooms for rent, 311 Tolland Street, East Hartford. \$160/week, includes all utilities. Call Robert, 860-308-5455.

Apartamentos Para Alquiler:
Apartamentos modernos localizados en Hartford. Studios, Uno, Dos, Tres y Cuatro cuartos dormitorios disponibles. Estacionamiento disponible. ** Aceptamos Section 8**. Rates Starting at: Studio- \$615; 1BR- \$700; 2BR- \$800; 3BR- \$900; 4BR-\$1000. Para mas informacion por favor llamar al 860-549-3000.

Church Space for Rent
Existing church building, highly visible and on the bus line. The space provides a sanctuary, pastor’s office, administrative office, plenty of classroom/ministry space, multiple bathrooms and off-street parking. This is an excellent space for a growing congregation. For more details call: Bill, 860-608-6998.

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El Informativo Latino

A partir de hoy niños de 3 años en adelante deben usar mascarilla en la escuela o centros de cuidado infantil en CT

A partir de hoy, los niños de 3 años en adelante deben usar mascarillas mientras estén en centros de cuidado infantil, escuelas y campamentos.

La Oficina de la Primera Infancia (OEC) dijo que debido a que este es un requisito nuevo, los programas tienen hasta el 19 de octubre para implementarlo por completo. El estado ha tenido un mandato de máscara en general desde el 20 de abril. La OEC dijo que este plazo permitirá que los niños, la familia y el personal se acostumbren a la nueva regla. Los programas también deben desarrollar una política escrita sobre el uso de mascarillas que compartan con las familias y el personal. Las excepciones al requisito de mascarillas en campamentos y centros de cuidado infantil son las siguientes, según la OEC:

- Un niño con una afección médica documentada, una necesidad especial de atención médica o una necesidad de



desarrollo (como integración sensorial) para quien el uso de una máscara o una cubierta facial sería contrario a su salud o seguridad, no está obligado a usarla.

- Un niño con una discapacidad documentada o necesidad de educación especial para quien usar una máscara o cubrirse la cara sería contrario a sus

necesidades. Los niños y el personal que participan en determinadas actividades de educación especial y servicios relacionados, como la terapia del habla y el lenguaje o donde se requiere la lectura de labios, pueden quitarse la máscara que cubre la cara de forma intermitente.

- No se requiere que los niños usen una máscara mientras comen, duermen o descansan. Se debe maximizar la distancia entre los niños, manteniendo al menos 6 pies de distancia siempre que sea posible cuando se quitan las mascarillas.
- Los niños que se inscribieron recientemente en los últimos dos meses y están trabajando para usar una mascarilla pueden quitarse la mascarilla o la cubierta facial.
- Los niños que acaban de cumplir tres años pueden tener hasta dos meses para aclimatarse a usar una máscara o cubrirse la cara y apoyar la preparación para el desarrollo.

Se pueden planificar y programar “descansos para mascarillas” a lo largo del día. Las mascarillas se pueden quitar para actividades al aire libre.



Hartford Athletic Secures Playoff Berth

Funny moment in last night's 3-1 win by Hartford Athletic over the at Dillon Stadium last night. Hartford Athletic's Alex Dixon (left) and Joey Zalinsky of the New York Red Bulls II fight for the ball in Athletics 3-1 win last Wednesday night, September 16, at Dillon Stadium. On Sunday, September 20, Athletic won again, this time on the road, with a 3-0 shutout of Philadelphia Union II. The win secured Athletic a spot as one of the 16 teams who will be battling it out in the playoffs for the 2020 United Soccer League (USL) 2020 Championship. (Hart photo)

Latina Champion Awards

Continued from page 2

Latino Community and have an impact in their longterm career journey.

Azucena Maldonado is a trailblazer on a mission to transform women's lives through golf. She founded the Latina Golfers Association in 2008 to introduce girls and women to the sport of golf for their personal and professional development and to promote a healthy lifestyle. #LatinaGolfers teaches women how to leverage golf as a business tool so they can advance in their careers/businesses and shatter the glass ceiling with a golf ball. What started as a passion and love of the game quickly turned into a movement with over 2,000 members in Southern California. Azucena has received numerous awards, was

inducted into the Latino Sports Hall of Fame in 2013, and Hispanic Lifestyle named her a Latina of Influence. She has been featured on the cover of Southland Golf Magazine, and has also appeared in Golf Digest and Golf Business, SCGA FORE magazine, SCPGA Program Magazine, PGA of America Magazine, and Arnold Palmer's Kingdom magazine.

Jossie Valentin is the State Policy Advisor for U.S. Senator Ed Markey and a former Holyoke, MA City Councilor. She served as the Massachusetts State Director for Elizabeth Warren's 2020 Presidential campaign, making Ms. Valentin the first Latina lesbian to serve in that capacity in Bay State history. Before joining politics, her career was in mental health, substance abuse, and higher education including a 13-year tenure as an academic advisor at Holyoke Community College. She earned a BA in Psychology from the University of Puerto Rico and an MS in Forensic Psychology from American International College. A proud resident of Massachusetts and of its LGBTQ community, Ms. Valentin has been with her wife for 14 years and “pays it forward” by giving back to her community as much as possible through board service, door-knocking for campaigns, and other grassroots activism.

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CITY OF HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS

The first semi-annual deferred installment of taxes on the Grand List of October 1, 2019, are due and payable on October 1, 2020.

Failure to pay any tax due October 1, 2020, will cause the tax to become delinquent and subject to interest, from the original due date of July 1, 2020, at the rate of 1 ½ % per full or partial month. Any delinquent tax is subject to a minimum interest charge of two dollars (\$2.00).

Since failure to receive a bill does not invalidate the tax or, in the event of delinquency, respective penalties, taxpayers who did not receive a bill should request a duplicate from the Division of Assessment and Collections.

Payments may be mailed to the address on the bills. Payments may also be made online at www.hartford.gov/tax or in the drop box located outside the Office of the Tax Collector, 550 Main Street, Room 106, Hartford, Connecticut, Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. and excluding holidays. Tax office hours Monday through Wednesday 8:15 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.; Thursday 8:15 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.; Friday 8:15 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Excluding holidays.

Nancy Raich, CCMC
Tax Collector
City of Hartford

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